

ARAB NATIONALISM AND POLITICAL ISLAM WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF REGIONAL SECURITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

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Abstract: *During the 20th century, ideological wars in the Western world occurred between democracy and fascism; fascism and communism; and democracy and communism, while the Second World War and Cold War were de facto radical forms of ideological collision. At the same time an ideological wave of confrontation between nationalism and the Muslim Brotherhood arose in Egypt and spread across the entire Arab world, which was one of the century's largest clashes. However, the drivers behind this confrontation were not the pretences of ideological superiority, but rather the struggle for power. There is no pre-existing 'hereditary underlying opposition between Gamal Abdel Nasser's Nationalism and Sayyid Qutb's Islamism. In fact, Nasser himself acknowledged that 'the source of my socialist ideas is Islam'. The sequence of events that established the so-called 'Arab Spring' are the latest episode in the battle for the acquisition and retention of power. Indeed, power is the factor which fragments the connection between Arab nationalists and Islamists.*

Key words: *Arab nationalism, Islamism, Egypt, Muslim Brotherhood, Naser, Great Britan.*